

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1877

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: DRC MEETING MARCH 31

REF: (A) STATE 070840 (DTG 310050Z MAR 77)(NOTAL)
(B) USNATO 1799 (DTG 291745Z MAR 77)(NOTAL)

1. AT THE MARCH 31 MEETBXUTHE DRC AGREED TO HANDLE THE 89 FLEXIBILITY MEASURES ASSIGNED BY THE EWG TO THE DRC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURES SUGGESTED IN DRC/N(77)9. THIS MEANS THAT THE 55 MEASURES WHICH ARE ALREADY INCLUDED IN NATO FORCE GOALS 1977-1982 WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE NORMAL FORCE PLANNING REVIEW THIS FALL, ALTHOUGH A CONSENSUS SUPPORTED THE US REP'S (BADER) SUGGESTION THAT SOME SPECIAL MEANS MIGHT HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED FOR REVIEWING MEASURES WITH REGION-WIDE APPLICATION. AN ADDITIONAL 16 MEASURES ARE POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR THE NEW FORCE PROPOSALS 1979-1984. SINCE TWO MEASURES HAVE ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED AND ONE WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE 1977 DPQ REPORT, THE DRC WILL STILL NEED TO CONSIDER THE REMAINING 15 MEASURES NOT COVERED AT THIS STAGE BY ANY EXISTING MACHINERY. THE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT, IF THE
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NOTES PROMISED BY THE IS IN DRC/N(77)9 WERE CIRCULATED BY APRIL 1, THE DRC COULD BEGIN DISCUSSION OF THESE 15 MEASURES BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK.

2. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF WHICH MEASURES THE DRC SHOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE EWG MOVE FORWARD TO MINISTERS, THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO THE US REP'S SUGGESTION THAT IT FIRST CONSIDER, AT A MEETING NEXT WEEK, CRITERIA FOR MAKING THE SELECTION. US REP NOTED, PURSUANT TO REF A, MEASURES THAT WASHINGTON THOUGHT APPROPRIATE. THE CHAIRMAN ADVISED AGAINST CONSTRUCTING A LONG

LIST OF UNRESOLVED ISSUES OR A LIST THAT WOULD OVERLAP, AND PERHAPS DEFLECT ATTENTION FROM, MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE. MC REP (COL. DU BOSE) STATED THAT THE MEASURES FOR MINISTERIAL ATTENTION SHOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE LIMITED TO THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES, BUT SHOULD EMPHASIZE ITEMS WHICH HAD NOT RECEIVED APPROPRIATE ACTION.

3. IN OTHER BUSINESS, THE CHAIRMAN REPORTED THAT THE DRC VISIT TO SHAPE, WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 19, HAD BEEN POSTPONED, AND THAT SHAPE WOULD RECOMMEND A NEW DATE. THE CHAIRMAN ALSO SAID THAT A VISIT HE HAD PROPOSED TO AFSOUTH DURING THE LAST PART OF JUNE WAS RECEIVING FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION BY SHAPE. HE ADDED THAT IF THE VISIT TO AFSOUTH MATERIALIZED, THE DRC WOULD ACCEPT, IF OFFERED, INVITATIONS TO VISIT THE US SIXTH FLEET AND THE ITALIAN ARMY. THE UK REP INVITED THE DRC TO VISIT UK NAVAL FORCES DURING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 26.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: NO GUIDANCE IS REQUIRED UNLESS WASHINGTON WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST, BY OB APRIL 6, CRITERIA FOR SELECTING MEASURES THE DRC SHOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE EWG MOVE FORWARD TO MINISTERS. STRAUSS-HUPE

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